

Remarks

In the Office Action dated June 17, 2003, the Examiner objected to the title of the invention, rejected claims 1-3, 6, 8-13, 16 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,324,497 to Yates, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,070,224 to LeCrone, et al. Claims 4-5, 7, 14-15 and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this paper, Applicant's representative amends Figure 8, the specification, and claims 1, 5-7, 10 and 15, adds new claim 20, and cancels claims 2-4 and 11-14.

With respect to the Examiner's objection and rejections, the Examiner is requested to consider the following remarks.

The specification has been amended for consistency.

Figure 8 has been amended for consistency. In block 808 the word "TOP" has been replaced by "TO."

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include what is believed to be the allowable subject matter of now canceled claims 2-4 and 11-14, respectively. New claim 20 provides the subject matter of claim 1 and what is believed to be the allowable subject matter of claims 2 and 7. Claims 5-7 and 15 have been amended for consistency. As such, no new matter has been added. None of the cited references, alone or in combination, provide the subject matter of amended claims 1 and 10 and new claim 20.

Regarding the claims which depend from independent claims 1 and 10, Applicant contends that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 10 are patentable. Moreover, Applicant contends these claims recite further limitations, in addition to the limitations of claims 1 and 10, which render these claims additionally patentable.

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Consequently, in view of the above and in the absence of better art, Applicant's attorney respectfully submits the application is in condition for allowance which allowance is respectfully requested. No fee is believed to be due for the filing of this paper. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to discuss prompt resolution of any remaining issues necessary to place this case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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